References:

Colston, P.R. 1980. The first and second records of the Short-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus tenuirostris* for the Malay Peninsula and other *Puffinus* records. *Bull. Br. Orn. Cl.* 100: 205-206.

Enticott, J. & Tipling, D. 1997. Photographic handbook of the seabirds of the world. New Holland (Publishers) Ltd London.

Frith, C.B. 1978. Short-tailed Shearwaters *Puffinus tenuirostris* in the Andaman Sea area, Indian Ocean. *Emu* 78: 95-97.

Marchant, S. & Higgins, P.J. 1990. *Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic birds*. Vol. 1, Pt A. Oxford Univ. Press. Oxford.

Addresses: D.S.Smith, Bird Group, The Natural History Museum, Akeman Street, Tring, Hertfordshire, HP23 6AP. E-mail: dss@nhm.ac.uk; A.S.Cheke, 139 Hurst Street, Oxford, OX4 1RQ.

© British Ornithologists' Club 2000

The nest and eggs of Merops muelleri mentalis

by R. J. Dowsett

Received 20 December 1999

Carter & Dickerman (1998) write that their description of the nest and eggs of *Merops muelleri* is the first for the Upper Guinea subspecies *mentalis*. This is not so, because the nest and eggs described by Serle (1954, p. 56) were of this form. It is generally accepted that the division between *mentalis* and the nominate is in SW Cameroon, and not as one might suppose west of the Dahomey Gap. Serle himself looked carefully at specimens before coming to this conclusion (1950, p. 360). This is one of several Upper Guinea birds which has its eastern distribution delimited by the Sanaga river system. But the nest that Carter & Dickerman report from Liberia does seem to be the only one described from Upper Guinea proper.

References:

Carter, M. F. & Dickerman, R. W. 1998. The first documented nest and eggs of Merops muelleri mentalis. Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. 118: 123–124.

Serle, W. 1950. A contribution to the ornithology of the British Cameroons. *Ibis* 92: 343–376, 602–638.

Serle, W. 1954. A second contribution to the ornithology of the British Cameroons. *Ibis* 96: 47-80.

Address: 12 rue des Lavandes, Ganges F-34190, France. (e-mail: Dowsett@aol.com).

© British Ornithologists' Club 2000